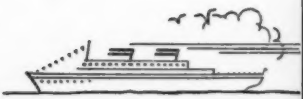
ASBESTOS

K & M Asbestos Textile Plant, Meredith, New Hampshire

MARCH 1953



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FOUNDED IN JULY 1919 AND PUBLISHED
MONTHLY SINCE THAT DATE

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Estate of C. J. STOVER, *Proprietor*

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THE STORY OF AMOSITE

A recent issue of the C. A. C. Magazine, house organ published by the Cape Asbestos Company Limited, London, England, has just reached us and is most interesting and informative. C. A. C. was mentioned in our February 1952 number and appears to fulfill its promised expectations. It contains "The Story of Amosite" which we reprint below, as we believe our readers will find the inside facts on this interesting variety of asbestos well worth adding to their find of information on various types of asbestos.

The Penge mining area is situated on the Olifants (or Elephants) River, in the district of Lydenburg, Transvaal Province, and consists of the farms Havercroft, Streatham, Penge, Weltevreden and Kromellenboog in that order from north to south. The southern boundary is the Steelpoort River. The area lies about 270 miles north-east of the Johannesburg, or about 6 hours travel by road. The railway journey, which ends at Burgersfort, takes much longer, and the final 25 miles to Penge must be done by road.

The country is very hilly, and it is this configuration which has allowed the asbestos outcrop to extend above the valley level, thus admitting of its exploitation mainly without the use of shafts. "The surroundings of Penge Mine are associated with very striking and beautiful scenery," to quote the original Government geological report in 1918.

To the layman, asbestos is asbestos, pure and simple; to the non-technical employee of the C. A. C. it is either Amosite, Cape Blue or Transvaal Blue; to the initiated it may be Amosite, Crocidolite, Chrysotile or any of the asbestiform minerals such as Tremolite, Anthophyllite or Actinolite. The commonest of them all is Chrysotile, known to the Romans as "Amianthus"; the blue variety was the original product of C. A. C., while Amosite, so little known that it only got its name in 1918 (from Asbestos Mines of South Africa), is now the major product of the Company, and, since this article is to deal with Penge and its environs, is the mineral with which we are concerned.

To say that Amosite is an "Orthorhombic Amphibole

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of Composition 48% SiO_2, 36% FeO and 4% $Fe20_3$, with some Magnesium Aluminum and Sodium oxides in small quantities'' is merely the technical way of saying that, despite its fibrous structure, it is a mineral which falls into the the Orthorhombic system of crystallization, that by chemical composition it belongs to a group of which the standard is a mineral known as Amphibole, and that it is made up principally of oxides of iron and silicon. It varies in color from white thru grey and greenish to brown, in lengths from streaks to as much as 14 inches, and in texture from brittle to very soft. Fibre lengths such as are found in Amosite are practically unknown in the other kinds.

How does Amosite occur? Imagine a huge lump of streaky bacon some 14 miles long by about 30 feet thick and of unknown width, forming one layer of the earth's surface between others formed of ironstones and shales, all of which are lying at an angle of about 20° in the hilly country before described. If the fatty streaks are imagined to be country rock, and the lean streaks the Amosite, a fair picture of the shape of the occurrence can be conceived. For mining purposes this layer is divided into four zones, separated one from another by barren portions, and known at the mine as the zones of High Bands (H. B.), Upper Bands (U.B.), Main Bands (M.B.), and Lower Bands (L. B.). Each of the zones is mined separately, and the products are segregated when leaving the mine. It must be understood that the asbestos streaks are not continuous—there are gaps along the length of the deposit where the fibre has not been formed, and there are gaps due to the valleys between fibre-carrying hills. How the asbestos was formed is one of those questions which have concerned the academic mind for a long time, and will not be discussed in this article.

The Penge mining area is made up of three distinct districts: Penge, Weltevreden and Kromellenboog. Each has its own sectional management, with control from Penge, its own producing area, recovery plant and resident staff, both European and native, tho the two later mines are small in comparison with Penge. It cannot be

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said with certainty that the occurrences on Weltevreden and Kromellenboog correspond with that on Penge, for there are wide gaps in which no fibre is known to exist, and the long fibre which at one time was the outstanding feature of Penge does not seem to occur in the other two areas. There are a number of asbestos exposures, particularly on Weltevredon, which remain to be exploited when the large gap existing southwards towards Kromellenboog will be considerably reduced.

Before proceeding to a description of the methods used for recovering the fibre, a little history will be of interest. The first record of the existence of Amosite is in the Annual Report of the Transvaal Geological Survey for 1907, but it was not until very much later that its value in the world markets was realized. The original Egnep and Amosa companies had a separate existence for some years before being taken over by C. A. C., and the progress of the area can be realized by the comparison of the output of 55 tons in 1915 with that of 37,600 tons in 1951. At one period only the long fibre was in commercial demand, and large dumps of the shorter lengths, mixed with discarded waste rock, gradually extended over the property. With the discovery of the many uses to which the fibre could be put came the demand for the shorter lengths, and these dumps have in the past few years contributed their quota to the output of the area.

The need to increase the production of Amosite caused a search to be made for other payable occurrences of this fibre, as a result of which new fields to the north and north-west of Penge were opened up. These are known as the Pietersburg fields, in which the Cape Asbestos Company acquired a large area which became the Malipsdrift Section of Egnep Limited. In this area the Transvaal Blue, or crocidolite variety, also occurs, and at Malipsdrift it is worked and produced in conjunction with Amosite. To-day there is a large amount of activity in these fields, but Cape Asbestos remains the biggest single producer of both types of fibre.

How is Amosite obtained? As with all material obtained from the earth, there are two stages in the produc-

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JM

Asbestos Fibre Division
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tion of the crude fibre—mining and processing. In all mining, except open-cast, the recovery of ore from underground is divided into two sections; the first is the development of the workings, in preparation for the second which is known as stoping and is the actual breaking of the containing rock, As previously mentioned, the occurrences of the ore body in the hills have enabled the Company to escape the necessity of shaft sinking, except in the Penge Hill, where the workings have extended some 200 feet below valley level. Thus development has been done by tunneling directly from the hill sides in the direction of the reef at intervals of about 100 feet along the length of the outcrop. These horizontal tunnels or "drives" are joined by "raises" and "winzes", or inclined tunnels in the ore body, and when these have met, a block of ore is ready for stoping.

The stoping process can best be compared with the removal of the meat from a sandwich, the meat being represented by the combination of waste-rock and fibre. In order to minimize the amount of worthless material that has to be handled, and also for safety purposes, as much of the waste rock as possible is sorted out and packed back into the mined area. It is this method of filling that has enabled the older workings of the mine to be kept open where necessary, and has given the Company its enviable reputation for safety and freedom from accident.

Both development and mining are done either by machine or hand labor, according to the nature of the rock. In the former case the holes required for blastings are drilled by machines driven by compressed air, and in the latter they are drilled by natives with hammers and "jumpers".

Development ends must be kept open all the time to enable continued progress to be made, so all the broken rock is "trammed" out of the mine, no sorting at all taking place under ground. The rock is dumped on the surface where as much of the fibre as possible is sorted out for transport to the plant, the waste rock helping to enlarge the surface dumps.

The ore obtained from stoping contains a large pro-

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portion of waste rock, for not all of that broken can be sorted out and packed back. Thus it has to be put thru a process of cleaning before it can be classed as crude asbestos and sent away from the mine. The trucks of ore are lowered to valley level by means of "brake wheels" or "go-devils", devices which allow a full truck, in its descent, to raise an empty one in its place, the speed being controlled by a larger brake-wheel and brake. The full trucks are emptied into bins, and from these the ore is taken by motor lorries to the various reduction plants, in some cases three or four miles away.

In the early days of mining, when the workings were near the surface and output was small, the ore was brought out of the mine in sacks or in wheelbarrows, but trucks were introduced as the workings got deeper and deeper into the hillsides. Progress cannot be impeded, and increased production requires the use of still more modern methods, As an example of this, one haulage tunnel has been driven to a length of 3,500 feet—and it is still being lengthened—in which Diesel locomotives pull trains of up to 20 trucks.

The reduction of the fibre to its final state does not require, fortunately, any complicated chemical process, as is the case in the recovery of most metals or minerals. The objective is a clean product, and one which is graded according to the requirements of different industries. Thus there are different plants producing different outputs, but in all the processes are the same, crushing by means of coarse and fine crushers, grinding by means of rolls, sorting of large waste by hand and of small waste by sieves and trommels, all with one idea—freeing the fibre from grit and dust until it has taken the form in which it comes to the final stage, that of packing into bags for transport to the rail head. At Penge this is a distance of 25 miles, and at Pietersburg, it is more than 50 miles.

This story of the production of the fibre from its rock-formation to the finished article makes it seem a very simple matter, but when one considered the various necessary factors—the production of power, lighting and compressed air, the various engineering requirements, the

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skill and ability needed for running the mine with safety and economy, works and workshops, the vast amount of stores that has to be on hand, and the large man-power complement that must be housed, fed and controlled—one wonders what the writer of the following passage would think could he visit Penge today:

"On Penge 780 there are found several veins of dirty yellowish asbestos of considerable thickness. One occurrence showed veins 6-½" wide, but the fibres do not well withstand heat. It is quite possible, however, that deeper down the quality may improve as the material examined had been left exposed for some time."

(Government Geologist's Report for 1907)

. . . —

We have received from another source the following information on Amosite which we believe will be of interest to our readers.

In regard to length of fibre, Amosite is unique and easily surpasses every other asbestiform mineral. Many grades of Amosite fibre are spinnable.

Smaller strands of Amosite, tested by hand manipulation, show an elasticity and a tensile strength little inferior to Crocidolite, while the flexibility approaches that of Chrysotile. One occurrence could be worked up into a pure white ball with the appearance of cotton or wool, the material being eminently flexible and not inferior to serpentine asbestos in this respect.

Held in the hottest point of a burning match, strands of Amosite soon lose their flexibility, darken and become brittle. In the blow-pipe, very thin fibres, after prolonged heating, show signs of fusion, altho much less readily than Crocidolite. Experiments show that, on subjecting Amosite in glazed porcelain crucibles for some hours to a bright red heat in gas muffle furnances, the fibre does not fuse, but turns dark brown and becomes thoroughly brittle, being easily powdered between the fingers. Under similar conditions, Crocidolite forms a melt of black glass. The superior heat resisting quality of Amosite may perhaps depend upon the lower soda content as compared with Crocidolite.

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Acids have very little effect upon Amosite. Samples of fibre, both the more brownish grade and the best quality greyish variety, were tested by leaving them immersed in strong cold Hydrochloric Acid for 24 hours. The washed and dried fibre showed an appreciably lighter color in case of the brownish kind, due to removal by the acid of some of the hydrated iron ore, while the greyish white quality produced only faint coloration of the acid and assumed very slightly lighter color. In both instances, the flexibility and tensile strength were scarcely affected. Amosite asbestos is superior to Chrysotile in its resistance to acids, chemical solutions and sea water, which have very little effect, a quality now made extensive use of in several navies and mercantile marines by the application of flexible boiler covering, protection of steam pipe with asbestos lagging, etc. From the point of view of shipment, the sea-water resisting capacity is a further important asset.

REPORTS OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

4. Magnesia Insulation Manufacturers Ass'n

The Magnesia Insulation Manufacturers Association held its ninth annual meeting in Philadelphia on January 22 and 23, 1953.

The following officers of the Association were re-elected for the ensuing year: Ernest Muehleck, President of Keasbey & Mattison Company, as Chairman of the Board of Governors—Alvin M. Ehret, Jr., President of Ehret Magnesia Manufacturing Company, as Vice Chairman—and J. A. O'Brien, Vice President of Johns-Manville Sales Corporation, as Treasurer of the Association.

W. C. Dodge of Keasbey & Mattison Company was re-appointed Chairman of the Publicity Committee, and R. C. Parlett of Johns-Manville Sales Corporation again heads the Technical Committee. H. A. Kieselbach continues as Technical Consultant to the Association.

Extensive publicity thru the trade and public press magazines and lectures given before trade organizations have stressed the advantages of 85% magnesia insulation. As part of the Technical Committee's activities, there has

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been increased emphasis in the research and development fields. As in the past, the industry constantly seeks to improve the high quality and performance of its product. In addition to the regularly scheduled Association meetings, special meetings of the Technical and Publicity Committees were held to review and set up a number of varied activities.

The 96-page "85% Magnesia Insulation Manual", published by the Association in 1949, continues to be a popular guide in describing the application and use of 85% magnesia insulation. Requests for the manual have come from all segments of the industry in both the United States and foreign countries.

Also on our most requested list are requests for reprints of feature articles describing the installations of 85% magnesia in industrial and commercial usage. These articles serve to guide the potential user on insulating theory and practice and have been of valuable assistance in setting forth the detailed method of selecting and applying insulation.

By Marshall F. Allen, Manager

INSULCOLOR--

New, Fire Retardant and Convenient

A new plastic coating for use as both protection and color identification on insulated refrigerant, cold water, steam and other lines and insulated equipment has been developed by the Armstrong Cork Company.

The new finish, called Insulcolor, is a tough plastic coating that can be either brushed or sprayed on.

Insulcolor will withstand temperatures to 160°F. without cracking, shrinking, or crazing. It may be used over heat insulations, cork pipe covering and lagging, and also as a finish over cork-insulated air conditioning ducts.

Insulcolor is available in white and six colors—Light and Dark Green, Light and Dark Blue, Yellow and Buff. For jobs where color is not desired or required for line identification, white provides an attractive, sanitary surface. Insulcolor can be applied over standard asphaltic finishes without danger of bleed-thru.

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The tough finish furnishes high resistance to bumping and abrasion. It has high water resisting properties which make it suitable for either inside or outside applications. No inflammable solvents are used in Insulcolor so that it's safe to use on the job. When dry, it is classified as fire-retardant. It is also entirely odorless.

Insulcolor reduces maintenance in insulated lines to a minimum. Dust, dirt, grease, oil and soot can be readily washed off its smooth surface. On indoor and outdoor lines and equipment it lasts for many years without recoating.

Insulcolor can also be used as an adhesive for pasting down canvas, asbestos cloth and other lagging cloths, thus eliminating the need for sewing the material. When used as and adhesive for lagging, Insulcolor is diluted with water.

Base white Insulcolor and the color tint desired are shipped in separate containers and mixed on the job. The white base is supplied in 3-½ gallon pails, containing 3 gallons of the material, which allows space for mixing. Coverage is 35 to 50 square feet per gallon in two-coat application, depending on the surface being finished.

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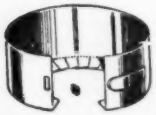
3. Provided in various colors to identify the steam lines.
4. Strong enough to resist bumping and abrasion.
5. Fire Retardant.



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CANADIAN SPECIFICATIONS

The list of Canadian Specifications has been revised as of January 2, 1953 and a copy can be obtained from the Canadian Government Specifications Board, National Research Council, Ottawa, Canada, at 10c each.

The following Asbestos materials are included in the list:

Asbestos-Cement Conduit, Electrical
Asbestos-Cement Pipe, Flue
Asbestos-Cement Pipe, House Connection
Asbestos-Cement Pipe, Industrial Vent
Asbestos-Cement Pipe, Pressure
Asbestos-Cement Pipe, Sewer
Asbestos-Cement Products:
Schedule of Methods of Sampling and Testing
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, Corrugated
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, Dielectric
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, Flat, Decorative
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, Flat, Flexible
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, Flat, Fully-Compressed
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, Flat, Semi-Compressed
Asbestos-Cement Sheets, for Electrical Purposes
Asbestos-Cement Shingles, Roofing
Asbestos-Cement Shingles, Siding

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MARKET CONDITIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS.

The general market situation continues good. Removal of many price controls has led to confused price levels in some markets but in general the inflationary effects of such moves have been slight. Many economists, in fact, predict generally lower price levels later this year. Farm prices and total farm income are both trending lower, and should this trend continue with no corresponding lowering of industrial prices an unbalanced situation might be created which until corrected could lead to unsettled conditions in the whole economy.

ASBESTOS — RAW MATERIAL.

Little change has taken place in the raw asbestos situation during the past month.

The demand remains high with some tapering off in the lower grades. There is every indication that there will be no let-up in demand during the year.

ASBESTOS — MANUFACTURED GOODS.

Asbestos Textiles. The market is exceedingly good on cloth, fair on tape and poor on other types of textiles, including wick and rope. Backlogs for high purity items remain high.

Asbestos Brake Lining. The market is still holding up and should remain at the same high level obtained in 1952. Equipment should show large increase with restrictions removed from steel, copper, brass and other basic materials.

Asbestos Paper. The *Paper* and *Millboard* market remains about the same as last month, demand being moderately firm. Sales for *Saturated Paper* are slow because of winter weather retarding built-up roofing work; production exceeding demand.

Insulation. High Pressure. There appears to be an improvement in the booking of high pressure insulation

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business within the past few weeks and backlog of orders are substantially increased. Deliveries in general are good.

Insulation. Low Pressure. There is very little change in the low pressure market since last month; demand continuing moderately firm.

Asbestos Cement Products. The demand for asbestos cement siding is moderately slow but order placements are running at approximately the same rate as February of last year. The new colors are very popular for both old and new work.

The demand for corrugated and flat continues good.

Pressure and Sewer Pipe sales are increasing with the approach of spring. Flue pipe, Building Sewer and Conduit sales are also on the upswing.

Asphalt Tile. The Asphalt Tile Industry continues to experience above-normal demand for this time of the year and there is every indication that 1953 sales will exceed those of last year.

The above comments have been made by various informed executives in the Industry. All comments are welcome.

. . . —

AUTOMOBILE SALES

	January 1953
Passenger Cars	453,319
Motor Trucks	110,356
Motor Coaches	248
	563,923

In January 1952 a total of 375,410 motor vehicles were sold.

These figures were supplied by the Automobile Manufacturers Association, New Center Building, Detroit, Michigan.

. . . —

After March 7th, 1953, the Mining Journal, Ltd. of 15 George Street, London, will be located at their new address, 15 Wilson Street, Moorgate, London, E.C. 2, England.

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THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

(From December 1952 issue The Mining & Industrial Magazine)

The Union Department of Mines has published the annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1950.

This report includes the reports made by the Government Mining Engineer and the Geological Survey.

About 60 square miles of the asbestos field at Malipsdrif were mapped. Furthermore, the Government Prospecting Scheme was advised in regard to the search for reported occurrences of asbestos in the Dongola Reserve; one discontinuous band of chrysotile was exposed. Further data was collected at the Sunnyside Mine, Munnik-Myburgh, and the Amianthus Mine in the vicinity of Kaapsche Hoop in view of the efforts of restarting or expanding these mines. A moderate view of the asbestos potentialities in these parts is recommended. A start was also made with the examination of occurrences of asbestos in the Krugersdorp district. Even tho the fibre here is not very abundant nor of particularly high quality, the occurrences are of some importance on account of their favorable position near to the main industrial centre. The public has done much during the past year to prove that chrysotile is widely spread over the Transvaal; samples have been forwarded from the western, northern, eastern and central Tansvaal.

Imports of Asbestos by United Kingdom

Raw Material

	Dec. 1952 Tons (2240 lbs.)	Year 1952 Tons (2240 lbs.)
From Union of S. Africa	793	20,847
Southern Rhodesia	3,958	45,446
Bechuanaland, Basutoland & Swaziland	1.263	14,822
Canada	4,066	44,666
Other Commonwealth Countries and the Irish Republic	35	1,783
Foreign Countries	...	823
	10,115	128,387

These figures were supplied by the Mining Journal Limited of London.

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ST. LOUIS 9
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SAN FRANCISCO 7
440 Brannen St.

Canada

(Department of Mines, Province of Quebec)

Tons 2000 lbs.

Production for December 1952 ..... 63,902 tons
Compared with December 1951 ..... 64,060 tons

Dominion Production for December 1952 is 65,649 tons, a difference of 1,747 tons from the Quebec figure.

By Grades:

	Year 1952	Year 1951
Crude	718	711
Fibres	328,256	306,733
Shorts	576,630	639,166
	905,604	946,610

Africa (S. Rhodesia)

(Published by Rhodesia Chamber of Mines)

Tons 2000 lbs.

Production for October 1952 ..... 7,890.04 tons
Valued at £609,940
Production for October 1951 ..... 7,032.75 tons
Valued at £541,878

Finland

The U. S. Mineral Trade Notes reports that complete statistics on asbestos in Finland in 1951 are not available, but about 3,000 tons were produced in the first half of 1952.

Japan

The U. S. Mineral Trade Notes records a production of asbestos in Japan in 1951 as 5,351,117 kilograms of chrysotile and 788,000 kilograms of amphibole.

Cyprus

(From W. Parry James, A. C. S. M., Inspector of Mines)

	4th Quarter (ending Dec. 31, 1952)		
	October	November	December
Rocked Mined	251,643	81,815	47,043
Rock Treated	70,068	29,262	11,686
Fibre Produced	2,599	927	513
Fibre Exported	1,327	1,780	683

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Exports from Canada

(Published by Dominion Bureau of Statistics)

	November 1952 Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value
Unmanufactured Asbestos:		
Crude		
United States	29	$ 17,925
United Kingdom	....	....
South America	....	....
Central America & Mexico	....	....
European Countries	3	20,520
Other Countries	....	....
	32	$ 38,445
Milled		
United States	13,278	$2,130,891
United Kingdom	2,550	458,233
South America	1,649	308,412
Central America & Mexico	235	36,839
European Countries	4,590	842,177
Other Countries	2,766	442,816
	25,068	$4,219,378
Shorts		
United States	37,714	$1,799,112
United Kingdom	1,980	79,851
South America	702	52,838
Central America & Mexico	....	....
European Countries	3,462	259,946
Other Countries	855	66,098
	44,713	$2,257,845
Grand Total—Unmanufactured Asbestos	69,813	$6,515,668
Manufactured Asbestos Goods:		
Brake Lining		$ 27,809
Packing		3,000
Other Materials		58,913
		$ 89,722

• • • —

The 1953 British Industries Fair will be held in London and Birmingham, England, April 27th to May 8th.

Twenty-two Commonwealth countries will be represented in what promises to be their most impressive display in recent years.

In 1952, 1,150 U. S. buyers attended the Fair.

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Exports from U. S. A.

(Figures by Bureau of Census)

Unmanufactured Asbestos:

	November 1952 Tons (2240 lbs.)	Value
To Canada	81	$ 15,850
Europe	207	66,178
Other Countries	181	64,787
	469	$146,815

Manufactured Asbestos Goods:

	November 1952 Quantity		Value
Asbestos Pipe Covg. & Cement	Lbs.	320,553	$ 48,209
Asbestos Textiles & Yarns	Lbs.	76,254	68,766
Asbestos Packing	Lbs.	106,474	114,712
Asbestos Bk. Lng. (Mld.&S.Mld.)	Lbs.	322,130	313,135
Asbestos Bk. Lng. (Woven)	Lin. Ft.	27,168	22,460
Asbestos Clutch Facings	No.	231,484	114,795
Asbestos Brake Blocks	Lbs.	30,963	36,593
Asbestos Construction Materials	Lbs.	3,457,962	288,572
Asbestos Manufacturers—Others	Lbs.	—	48,967
			$1,056,209

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NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

BIRTHDAYS

John H. Balch, Vice President, Treasurer and Director, Union Asbestos & Rubber Co., Chicago, Ill., March 22.

Paul G. Charbonnet, Vice President, Asbestone Corporation, New Orleans, La., March 23.

Grady B. Gulledge, Director & General Manager, Apache Asbestos Mines, Inc., Owner & Manager Pine Top Asbestos Mines, Globe, Arizona, March 23.

George Barge, Treasurer, Keasbey & Mattison Company, Ambler, Pa., March 27.

A. R. Fisher, President, Johns-Manville Corporation, New York City, March 27.

J. A. O'Brien, Vice President, Johns-Manville Corporation, New York City, March 28.

Lord Elton, Director, The Cape Asbestos Company, London, England, March 29.

F. V. S. Smith, Director & Secretary, Hodgson & Hodgson, Ltd., Carrington, Nottingham, England, March 29.

W. C. Bowman, District Manager, The Philip Carey Mfg. Company, Phila., Pa., March 30.

H. F. McFarland, Jr., President, Smith Asbestos Products, Inc., Millington, N. J., April 2.

G. M. Williams, President, Russell Mfg. Company, Middletown, Conn., April 6.

Herbert D. Harris, Asbestos Corporation of America, New York City, April 12.

J. M. Weaver, Textile Research and Development Engineer, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., Manheim, Pa., April 14.

To all these gentlemen we extend congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of their birthdays.

DICK'S ASBESTOS & INSULATING CO., LTD.

Appoints U. S. Representatives

Dick's Asbestos and Insulating Company, Limited, of London, England, manufacturers of Asbestos Textiles, Gland Packings for steam, water, chemicals, etc as well as Flange Jointing of every description; Thermal Insulating Products, etc., recently appointed Charles Abbott & Associates, Inc., 29 West 74th Street, New York 23, N. Y., as their United States Representatives.

A new issue of their General Catalog is now being prepared by Dick's Asbestos and Insulating Company Limited and will be ready for distribution shortly. If any of our readers are interested in receiving a copy of this catalog, write Charles Abbott & Associates Inc., at the above New York address

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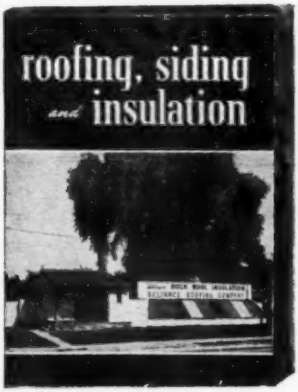

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ASBESTOS CORPORATION LIMITED

Annual Report — 1952

The Annual Report of Asbestos Corporation Limited has just reached us and profit for the year (ending December 31st, 1952), after charging all expenses including taxes, but before providing for depreciation, amounted to $5,447,698.

The Company's four producing mines, King, Beaver, British Canadian and Vimy Ridge, operated at close to capacity thruout the year and preparatory work to bring the Normandie Mine into production was initiated during the year.

The total rock milled was 3,801,498 tons, an increase over the previous year's figure of 3,683,014 tons. The larger tonnage of rock milled this year was almost entirely attributable to the increased mill feed at the Beaver Mine where the new Aerofall mill mentioned in last year's report operated at capacity thruout the year. A large increase in stripping was due to pre-production stripping at the Normandie Mine which totalled 779,120 cu. yds.

Over-all production of asbestos fibre declined 10% in volume from last year, but this was entirely due to the smaller tonnage of shorts produced. The lower production of shorts is a direct reflection of the market for these grades, by far the greatest volume of which is consumed in the asphalt tile industry.

At the Beaver Mine, the Aerofall mill continued to show gratifying results and several types of ancillary equipment were purchased for further research in improved fibre recovery.

PROCESSING OF ASBESTOS IMPROVES

As a result of a new asbestos milling and grading process now being introduced by Italian technicians, revenue from South African asbestos, at present earning about £6,000,000 a year, may be increased by some millions of pounds. The director of an asbestos company stated that the new type of Italian plant is now being erected in the Pietersburg area where many important asbestos mines are situated. According to a Press report, the introduction of the new recovery method, would result in revenue for the crocidolite grade of asbestos being increased by at least 30%. South Africa practically has a world monopoly in the blue fibre known as crocidolite and any improvement in the processing would not only extend the export markets, but would bring in a much higher return.

The above was taken from the January 10, 1953 issue of The South African Mining and Engineering Journal. We expect to publish additional information on this within the next few months.

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UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY
Annual Report

United States Rubber Company established a new sales record of $850,151,566 in 1952 and profit amounted to $28,169,955, the second highest in the company's history, according to the 61st Annual Report to stockholders.

Net sales in 1952 were 1.5 per cent greater than in 1951 but profit fell short of the 1951 figure by 7 per cent. Profit was 3.3 per cent of sales and amounted to $4.33 a share of common stock compared with 3.6 per cent of sales and $4.76 a share of common stock for the previous year (after 3-for-1 stock split).

The company invested $26 million in expansion and modernization programs during the year, $5 million more than in 1951. It purchased a plastic film plant in Stoughton, Wis., added new equipment in all its tire plants to streamline tire production and started an expansion which will ultimately double the capacity of its Marvinol vinyl resin plant at Painesville, Ohio. It also expanded high-pressure hose manufacturing facilities at Passaic, N. J., and agricultural chemical production facilities at Naugatuck, Conn.

About 16 per cent of 1952 sales represented defense orders, compared with 13 per cent in 1951. The company started the year with a defense order backlog of $112 million, delivered $140 million worth of defense products and ended the year with unfilled orders amounting to $96 million. Military tires, rubber-treaded tank tracks, aircraft fuel cells, aircraft hose and communication cables were the principal defense products.

JOHNS-MANVILLE APPOINTS NEW
Director of Purchasing

William J. Reynolds has been appointed Director of Purchasing for Johns-Manville Corporation.

Mr. Reynolds, who was formerly Purchasing Agent for the company, succeeds S. F. Curtis, who has retired.

Born in Bedford Hills, N. Y., Mr. Reynolds joined Johns-Manville in 1913 at the company's offices in New York City and in 1916 was transferred to the Purchasing Department. In the past thirty-six years he has been successively Buyer, Senior Buyer, Chief Buyer, and in February 1946 was appointed Purchasing Agent.

PABCO PRODUCTS INC.
Fourth Quarter Report

The report of Pabco for the three months ending December 31, 1952, shows Net Sales of $9,234,123 compared with $8,362,826 for the corresponding period in 1951; Net Profit for the period was $217,365 compared with $426,043 for 1951, or 13c per share for the 1952 period and 26c per share for 1951, after provisions for Preferred Dividends.

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ROCKBESTOS PRODUCTS CORPORATION

Transfers J. A. Stefon, Jr.

John A. Stefon, Jr., is being transferred to Chicago as office and warehouse manager of the Chicago District Office of Rockbestos Products Corporation, New Haven, manufacturers of permanently insulated wire and cable.

Mr. Stefon had been priorities advisor in the New Haven Sales Office.

A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Stefon has been with Rockbestos since December 1947. He served as assistant to the Factory Superintendent before he was transferred to the Sales Department in 1952. He has been a U. S. Navy inspector at Rockbestos during World War II, a position he had held for six years.

The moving of Mr. Stefon to Chicago is a part of the company's plans to improve its warehousing and customer service in the Midwest where more and more of its products are being used. Rockbestos makes insulated wire and cable for public utilities, steel mills, aircraft and mining machinery manufacturers, and for other special uses which require insulations which have to withstand extreme heat or severe operating conditions.

AMERICAN BRAKE SHOE APPOINTS

New Executive Vice-President

The National Bearing Division of American Brake Shoe Company announces the appointment of *Sam R. Watkins* as executive vice-president.

After graduating from Yale University, Mr. Watkins joined the company in 1939 as a member of the sales department of Brake Shoe & Castings Division. He continued as a sales representative until 1941 when he entered military service, serving as captain in the Field Artillery. He rejoined the sales force in 1946, and in 1949 was named district sales manager for the division. In 1951 he became assistant vice-president.

Mr. Watkins will transfer to the National Bearing Division headquarters in St. Louis.

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Australia — Statistics

(Published by Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics. Ministry of National Development)

Tons 2240 lbs.

Quarter ending June 30, 1952

Production

Crocidolite	608 tons
Chrysotile	201 tons
	809 tons

Imports

Chrysotile	2,631 tons
Amosite	3,047 tons
Other	1,144 tons
	6,822 tons

Exports

U. S. A.	50 tons
Other Countries	181 tons
	231 tons

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ROCKBESTOS PRODUCTS CORPORATION

Change In Personnel

Edward J. Parker has been appointed district sales manager for St. Louis and *Edward J. Langhenry* as sales representative in the Chicago district sales office of Rockbestos Products Corporation, manufacturers of permanently insulated wire and cable.

Mr. Parker succeeds Richard H. Bamford, who has returned to headquarters as assistant sales manager for the company. He joins Rockbestos after considerable experience as a sales engineer for Peter Kiewit Sons Company in California, and John Fabick Tractor Company in St. Louis.

Mr. Langhenry will work under the direction of District Manager William E. Tierney in Chicago. He was with the Westinghouse Electric Company as a salesman for two years before joining Rockbestos. He is an electrical engineer, and a graduate of Marquette University.

ASBESTOS STOCK QUOTATIONS

(These figures are compiled from the Commercial & Financial Chronicle. No guarantee as to their correctness.)

		February 1953		
	Par	Low	High	Last
Amer. Br. Shoe (Com)	np	39⅛	40⅜	40¼
Amer. Br. Shoe (Pfd)	100	101	103¾	103¾
Armst. Ck. (Com)	np	48¾	52⅞	49¾
Armst. Ck. (Pfd)	np	94¼	97¼	94¼
Armst. Ck. (Conv. Pfd)	np	108½	111¾	109¾
Asb. Corp. (Com)	np	24¾	26½	24⅞
Carey (Com)	10	17½	18⅝	18¼
Cassiar Asb. Corp. Ltd.	np	$6.75	$8.10	$7.90
Celotex (Com)	np	17½	18¼	18⅛
Celotex (Pfd)	20	16	16⅝	16½
Certainteed (Com)	1	14⅛	14¾	14⅝
Dominion Asb. Mines	1	$2.85	$4.00	$3.30
Flintkote (Com)	np	29½	31¼	29¾
Flintkote (Pfd)	np	99	100	99
Johns-Manville (Com)	np	68⅜	71¾	69
Pabco Products (Com)	np	13⅛	13⅝	13½
Pabco Products (Pfd)	100	84½	86½	86
Ray-Man (Com)	np	41⅞	44	43¼
Ruberoid (Com)	np	57	61½	59¾
Thermoid (Com)	1	8½	9⅛	9⅛
Thermoid (Pfd)	50	40¾	44	44
Union Asb. & Rub. (Com)	5	12½	13⅛	13⅛
United Asb. (Com)	1	$3.00	$4.25	$4.25
U. S. Gypsum (Com)	20	113	116¼	114
U. S. Gypsum (Pfd)	100	171	177	177
U. S. Rubber (Com)	10	28⅛	30⅜	29⅝
U. S. Rubber (Pfd)	100	139¼	143	143

BUILDING

Construction contract awards in the 37 states east of the Rockies in January were $1,075,868,000 or 27 per cent less than in December but 19 per cent more than January 1952, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists.

Nonresidential awards in January were $406,914,000 are 43 per cent less than December but 14 per cent above January 1952.

Residential contracts of $460,036,000 were 5 per cent above December and 36 per cent above January 1952.

Heavy engineering (public works and utilities) at $208,918,000 was 34 per cent less than December but 1 per cent more than January 1952.

. . . —

A big man is not one who makes no mistakes, but one who is bigger than the mistakes he makes.

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ASBESTOS - ORES - MINERALS

The Victor Manufacturing & Gasket Co. of Chicago has developed a new gasket material which it calls asbestoprene, a compound of asbestos and DuPont neoprene synthetic rubber.

Gaskets made of a mixture of asbestos pulp and neoprene latex are being designed for automobile and tractor use, among other fields. The company says that asbestoprene "is more compressible and more heat resistant than glue-glycerin treated paper and has much better dimensional stability, does not cause corrosion of light metals and is resistant to oils, water, gasoline and anti-freeze solutions."

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56 Crittenden St., Newark, New Jersey

CURRENT RANGE OF PRICE

March 10, 1953

Arizona—	**Per Ton of 2,000 lbs., f.o.b. Globe, Arizona**		
No. 1 Crude	1,200.00	to	1,500.00
No. 2 Crude	900.00	to	1,000.00
No. 3 Crude	375.00	to	450.00
Filter Fibre	425.00	to	475.00
Canada—	**Per Ton (2000 lbs.) f.o.b. Mine**		
Group No. 1 (Crude No. 1)	$1,100.00	to	$1,500.00
Group No. 2 Crude No. 2; Crude Run-of-Mine and Sundry	500.00	to	1,000.00
Group No. 3 (Spinning Fibre)	300.00	to	525.00
Group No. 4 (Shingle Fibre)	150.00	to	200.00
Group No. 5 (Paper Fibre)	100.00	to	140.00
Group No. 6 (Waste, Stucco or Plaster)			77.00
Group No. 7 (Refuse or Shorts)	35.00	to	70.00
Vermont—	**Per Ton of 2000 lbs. f.o.b. Hyde Park or Morrisville Vt.**		
Group No. 3 (Spinning & Filtering)	321.00	to	348.00
Group No. 4 (Shingle Fibre)	156.00	to	173.00
Group No. 5 (Paper Fibre)	110.00	to	132.00
Group No. 6 (Waste, Stucco or Plaster)			78.00
Group No. 7 (Refuse or Shorts)	37.00	to	68.50

HYDRAULIC COMPRESSION ASBESTOS

Compressed products requiring 30,000 P S I

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SILVER TROY INDUSTRIES

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BOOK LIST

The Asbestos Factbook, 16 pages: Information in compact form on origin, facts, locations, uses of analyses, qualities. 10c per copy.

Asbestos Mining Methods. By C. V. Smith. (Reprint) 16 pages. 25c per copy.

Milling Asbestos. By J. C. Kelleher. (Reprint) 16 pages. Companion article to Asbestos Mining Methods. Both should be in every Asbestos Library, 25c per copy.

Recovery of Raw Asbestos. By Roland Starkey. (Reprint) 6 pages. Supplement to Milling Asbestos. 25c per copy.

Canadian Chrysotile Asbestos Classification. Including latest Quebec Testing Method. January 1, 1949 Edition. 4 pages. 25c per copy.

Processing Asbestos Fibres. 8 pages. (Reprint). 25c per copy.

Tests for Cotton Content. 4 pages (Reprint). Describing several methods of testing asbestos textile for cotton content. 10c per copy.

Chart—Dollars Cost of Uninsulated Pipe. (Reprint). 20c each.

Brake Linings of Various Types. By R. T. Halstead. (Reprint). (12 pages) from August, September and October 1949 "ASBESTOS." Price 25c per copy.

Twelve Estimating Tables, with Chart. Convenient in figuring flange fittings and other areas. $1.00 per set.

Manual of Unit Prices. For figuring pipe covering and blocks. 75c per single copy postpaid. Discount in quantities of 6 or more, postage billed.

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AFTERTHOUGHTS

¶ Patrick H. Ryan, Division Manager of Asbestone Corporation's St. Louis, Mo., office is now located at the Buffalo, N. Y., office of the National Gypsum Company, to handle the sales of all asbestos products. National Gypsum recently purchased the Abestone Corporation — see page 46 of our January 1953 issue.

¶ Johns-Manville Co. will supply 16,000 feet of Transite Asbestos Cement Pressure Pipe for the new Bowater's Southern mill. Three miles of this processed piping will be installed by the Grinnell Co. The pipe will range in size from 4" to 16", all class 150.

Streed Transite Lined fittings will also be used thruout this new mill making an all Transite corrosion resistant piping system.

¶ More than 400 members of the Chicago Roofing Contractors Assn., manufacturers, jobbers and their wives attended a highly successful testimonial banquet on January 15th in honor of Carroll Figge, executive secretary, National Roofing Contractors Assn.

A handsome scroll signed by all present was given Mr. Figge as "the outstanding All-American in the roofing industry, not only in Chicago, but in the entire United States."

¶ The Association of Consultant Chemist and Chemical Engineers, Inc., will hold an open meeting on April 21st, 1953, at the Hotel Belmont Plaze, New York City — Symposium and dinner.

W. E. SINCLAIR, M.I.M.M.
Consulting Mining Engineer
Specialising in asbestos production in
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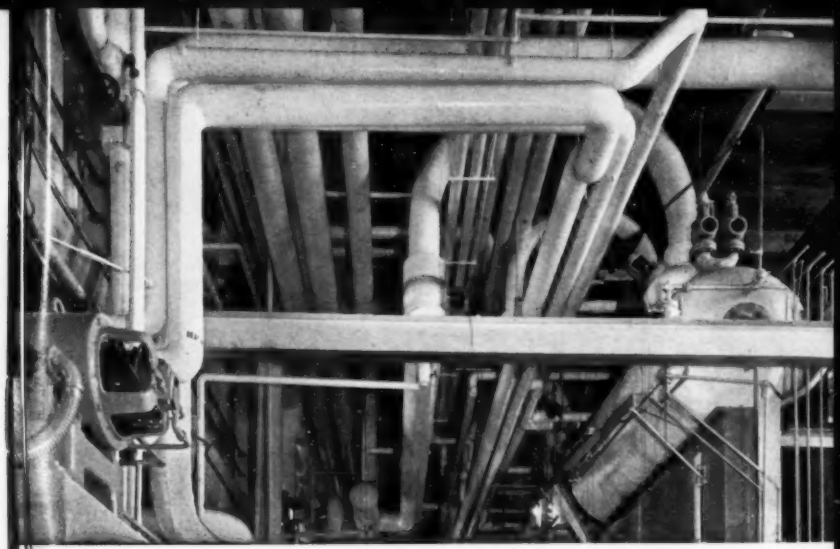
P. O. BOX 1183, JOHANNESBURG, S. A.



Thermalite 85% Magnesia Insulation

. . . is suitable for temperatures up to 600° F. and is available in semi-cylindrical sections for pipe sizes up to 18″ diameter.

. . . has a low density and low conductivity yet remains exceptionally durable.

. . . is molded to exact, finished size—making Thermalite uniform in dimensions and easy to apply snugly and evenly.

For information on sizes, recommended thicknesses, and recommended application procedure, write for Bulletin 4h.

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VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

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THREAD • CORD • ROVING • TUBING
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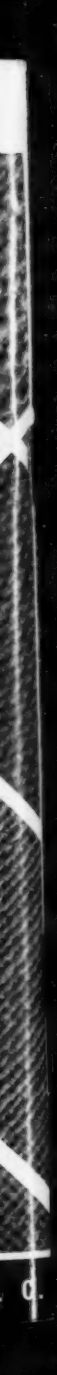
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